

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CONAKR 00915 101557Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00 /100 W
-----061073 102344Z /64

R 101520Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4306
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USMISSION USUN

CONFIDENTIAL CONAKRY 0915

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PEPR, AG, MR, GV
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF SAHARA CONFLICT

REF: ALGIERS 1389

1. FEW RELIABLE DETAILS AVAILABLE HERE ON SEKOU TOURE'S
ROLE IN ANY CURRENT SAHARAN MEDIATION ATTEMPTS. IN MARCH
23 SPEECH PRESIDENT REVEALED THAT EARLIER MEDIATION EFFORTS
ON BEHALF OF MOROCCO AND ALGERIA RAN AGROUND, DIRECTLY
AS RESULT OF ALGERIA'S PREFERENCE TO DEAL WITH MATTER UNDER
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AUSPICES OF MAURITIUS CONFERENCE, CONTEXT OF WHICH WAS
NOT CLEAR FROM SKETCHY BACKGROUND GIVEN IN SPEECH.

2. MORE RECENTLY, PRESIDENT TOURE'S VISIT TO TRIPOLI
RESULTED IN JOINT COMMUNIQUE CALLING FOR CONTRIBUTION
TO SEARCH FOR SOLUTIONS IN NUMBER OF AFRICAN TROUBLE
SPOTS AMONG THEM THE WESTERN SAHARA.

3. JUST AFTER SEKOU TOURE'S RETURN FROM TRIPOLI AND BAMAKO, ON APRIL 29, HE RECEIVED ALGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTEFLIKA, WHO REPORTEDLY CARRIED LETTER FROM BOUMEDIENE. RUMORS IN CONAKRY HAVE HAD SEKOU TOURE LINING UP TRAVEL TO RABAT OR ALGIERS OR BOTH, BUT EMBASSY HAS BEEN UNABLE TO CONFIRM. BOUTEFLIKA SPENT ABOUT FOUR HOURS IN TALKS WITH TOURE. ACCORDING TO FRENCH AMBASSADOR AND ALGERIAN CHARGE, HE ATTEMPTED WITHOUT MUCH SUCCESS TO GET TOURE TO SPELL OUT IN MORE DETAIL HOW GUINEA DEFINES SAHARAN /SELF-DETERMINATION", WHICH TOURE HAS SUPPORTED VAGUELY WHILE PUBLICLY AVOIDING COMMITEMENT TO EITHER SIDE. LATELY, OF COURSE, TOURE HAS BEEN VISIBLY PROMOTING BETTER GUINEAN RELATIONS WITH MOROCCO. GOG MFA SOURCE AT LEAST EXPECTS NO FURTHER GUINEAN-ALGERIAN POLEMICS OVER GOG'S REFUSAL TO TAKE A PUBLIC STAND SUCH AS "HOROYAS" ARTICLE IN MARCH WHICH, TOURE TOLD WESTERN AMBASSADOR, HE AUTHORED HIMSELF. (TOURE CLAIMED ARTICLE'S TEXT HAD BEEN EVEN MORE POLEMICAL BEFORE "ADVISERS" TALKED HIM INTO TEMPERING IT SOMEWHAT). FURTHER ON UPBEAT, ALGERIAN CHARGE SAYS HE EXPECTS NEW ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR TO ARRIVE AT CONAKRY IN JUNE ENDING MORE THAN YEAR'S HIATUS STEMMING FROM BILATERAL POLITICAL DISACCORD.

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